

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1106
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.09.2020

Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary

1106. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the threats faced by over two lakh people inhabited around the Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary of Kozhikode in view of the recent orders and notifications issued in this regard;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to tackle grievances of such inhabitants living in the surrounding areas of the Sanctuary; and
- (c) the further steps taken by the Government to ensure peace and harmony for the human settlements and safety of wild animals?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a) & (b) Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has recently issued draft notification for Eco-sensitive Zone (ESZ) of Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary based on the proposal of State Government of Kerala vide S.O. 2634(E) dated 05.08.2020. An area to an extent varying from 0 (zero) to 1.0 kilometre around the boundary of Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary has been proposed as ESZ which mostly includes Reserved forests, Kuttyadi Hydro Electric Project and rest being non forest area having few human habitations in 13 villages having a total population of about 10000, the land mostly includes plantations such as rubber and coconut which are permitted in the ESZ area. There is a provision for submitting grievances and remarks in connection to the draft notification within 60 days from the date of issue of draft notification. The final notification will be issued only after considering and studying all these complaints or remarks on the draft notification.
- (c) The important steps taken by the Government to ensure peace and harmony for the human settlements and safety of wild animals are as follows:
 - i. Financial assistance is provided to the State/Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Integrated Development of

Wildlife Habitats, for providing better protection to wildlife including rare species of animals, improvement of their habitat and to ensure harmonious existence of human settlements with wild animals.

- ii. The local communities are involved in conservation measures through eco-development activities who help the forest department in protection of wildlife.
- iii. Rare and endangered species found in India, like Tiger, Snow Leopard, Great Indian Bustard, Gangetic Dolphin, Dugong, etc. have been listed in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby providing them highest degree of protection.
- iv. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for stringent punishment for violation of its provisions. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence(s).
- v. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau coordinates with State/UTs and other enforcement agencies to gather intelligence about poaching and unlawful trade in wild animals and animal articles.
